Banning Indian satellite channels in Pakistan

1251. SHRI C. RAMACHANDARAIAH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Pakistan Government has ordered all the cable TV operators to stop relaying telecasts and broadcasts of all Indian satellite TV Channels;

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) whether Government are taking any steps to check and counter Pakistan TV's anti-India propaganda?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) and (b) The Karachi-based Cable TV Operators Association is implementing what it calls a "self-imposed ban" on Indian TV news channels on the grounds that these channels are indulging in anti-Pakistan propaganda. The move to block these channels has been adversely commented on by various sections of public opinion in Pakistan.

(c) Government is aware of the anti-India propaganda carried by Pakistan Television. Such propaganda is regularly countered by the Prasar Bharti Network through specially commissioned programmes like *Pakistan Reporter, PTV Such Kya Hai, Pookhta Saboot, Date Line Kashmir, Kashmir Nama, Kashmir Now etc.* The daily media briefings of the Ministry of External Affairs, as well as other regular interviews and media opportunities arranged with both national and international media are also aimed at effectively countering the disinformation campaign launched by Pakistan.

Indian fishermen captured by Pakistan

1252. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA:
SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of fishermen abducted by the Pakistani Marines recently near Jakhus of Kutch and other areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the fate of these fishermen;